

EastWaterWayComments

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2023 4:38 PM
To: EastWaterWayComments
Subject: Comment on the East Waterway Proposed Plan

Dear Ms. Laura Knudsen,

Thank you for inviting public comment on the EPA's Proposed Plan for the East Waterway Cleanup. As a citizen deeply concerned with and ashamed of the current state of the Duwamish River, I implore the EPA to continue its local engagement efforts to ensure equitable and diverse input to this proposal and implementation. More outreach is welcome.

Like many in the area, I am eager to support this long-overdue Duwamish restoration. This cleanup must protect fish and wildlife, water quality, and the health of Tribal Nations and community members, including those most affected by health impacts resulting from years of pollution.

I urge the EPA to implement the cleanup plan that most aggressively protects health and the environment. While I offer support for the Preferred Alternative, I strongly believe that the East Waterway Proposed Plan must be strengthened by incorporating the following:

Source control: The East Waterway source control plan should include data from the Pollution Loading Assessment and should be released for public review. The Lower Duwamish Waterway Proposed Plan included a Source Control Strategy document with an action plan summary. This information is necessary to make meaningful comments on sediment cleanup for the East Waterway and should be included in the Proposed Plan.

Environmental justice: The Proposed Plan states that recreational fishing is minimal in the East Waterway. This plan fails to recognize the significance of the area for Georgetown and South Park community members. The Spokane Street Bridge is one of the most popular fishing locations in the Duwamish River, especially for low-income communities and communities of color. These stakeholders and their health needs must be accurately reflected in the Proposed Plan.

In addition, the Preferred Alternative proposes Enhanced Natural Recovery instead of removing contaminated mud around the Spokane Street Bridge or West Seattle Bridge. This choice is concerning. Unless that polluted mud is removed, resident fish and shellfish may continue to accumulate high concentrations of PCBs. Many community members consume fish caught from the Spokane Street Bridge, regardless of fishing advisories. Such health risks are unacceptable, and the EPA must do all it can to remove COCs from the Waterway in its entirety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the East Waterway Proposed Plan and for listening to the voices of community members in selecting the Preferred Alternative. I trust the EPA will consult broadly and meaningfully as it continues to develop and implement its Proposed Plan.

With your help, we can ensure that the Plan protects current and future generations and accelerates ecosystem recovery across this Operable Unit and the entire Superfund site.

Regards,

(b) (6)